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The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Assistance in mine action

Sustainable development

General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 25 June 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that on 18 June 2010 the Republic of Nicaragua was declared an anti-personnel mine-free country at a formal ceremony.

The national humanitarian demining programme was launched in 1989 as a Government initiative with very limited resources. Subsequently, the international community and bilateral donors joined in the national effort by providing financial and logistical support; their assistance was acknowledged by the Government and people of Nicaragua at the 18 June 2010 ceremony.

The national humanitarian demining programme covered 74 municipalities and destroyed 2 million explosive devices. As part of the programme, 179,970 mines were removed and destroyed; 1,029 areas, including 70 major bridges, 378 high-tension towers, two runways, seven hydroelectric plants and substations, six communication transponders, 33 populated areas surrounded by minefields and 533 minefields along the border and coastal areas, were cleared of mines.

The Government and people of Nicaragua are proud to have removed the threat of landmines from nearly 12 million square metres of the country and returned the cleared land to productive economic activity, directly or indirectly benefiting over two and a half million people.

This welcome development can only be surpassed by the imminent declaration of the Central American region as an anti-personnel mine-free zone.

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In that regard, I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, in all the official languages, under agenda items 20, 28, 53 and 96.

(*Signed*) Jaime **Hermida**
Ambassador
Alternate Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires